



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 186

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Bill No. 556

Senate, March 22, 2000

The Committee on Public Safety reported through SEN. PENN of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Elevators.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-192 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) Each elevator or escalator used or intended for use in this state
4 shall be constructed, equipped, maintained and operated, with respect
5 to the supporting members, elevator car, shaftway, guides, cables,
6 doors and gates, safety stops and mechanisms, locking mechanisms,
7 electrical apparatus and wiring, mechanical apparatus, counterweights
8 and all other appurtenances, so as to sustain safely the load which it is
9 designed and intended to carry according to the provisions of this
10 chapter and the regulations of the commissioner adopted in
11 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

12 (b) Any person may apply to the State Building Inspector to grant
13 variations or exemptions from, or approve equivalent or alternate

14 compliance with, standards incorporated in the regulations adopted
15 under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and the State
16 Building Inspector may approve such variations, exemptions, or
17 equivalent or alternate compliance where strict compliance with such
18 provisions would cause practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship.

19 (c) Any person aggrieved by any decision of the State Building
20 Inspector pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may appeal to the
21 Commissioner of Public Safety or such commissioner's designee not
22 later than thirty days after notice of such decision has been rendered.
23 Any person aggrieved by any ruling of such commissioner or designee
24 may appeal therefrom to the Superior Court in accordance with section
25 4-183, as amended.

26 Sec. 2. Section 29-193 of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

28 No new elevator or escalator shall be erected or installed and no
29 elevator or escalator shall be relocated or altered until detailed plans
30 and specifications of the proposed construction or other work have
31 been submitted in [duplicate] triplicate to the department for approval.
32 A fee of one hundred fifty dollars for each elevator or escalator
33 payable to the [Department of Public Safety] department shall
34 accompany each such proposal. Notice that such plans are approved or
35 disapproved shall be given within a reasonable time and final
36 inspection of the elevator or escalator, when installed, relocated or
37 altered, shall be made before final approval for operation is given by
38 the department. The department may issue a temporary operating
39 permit, if necessary, pending final inspection and approval. The
40 provisions of this chapter shall not prevent the operation of any
41 elevator installed for temporary use in connection with building
42 operations or the operation of any elevator for purposes connected
43 with the installation or the testing of the same.

44 Sec. 3. Section 29-195 of the general statutes is repealed and the

45 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

46 Each elevator or escalator shall be thoroughly inspected by a
47 department elevator inspector at least once each [twelve months,
48 except that each elevator or escalator subject to a full-maintenance
49 contract with a licensed maintenance contractor shall be inspected at
50 least once every two years] eighteen months, except private residence
51 elevators, as defined in the regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-
52 192, as amended by section 1 of this act, shall be inspected upon the
53 request of the owner. More frequent inspections of any elevator or
54 escalator shall be made if the condition thereof indicates that
55 additional inspections are necessary or desirable.

56 Sec. 4. Section 29-196 of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

58 As soon as the department approves any new, relocated or altered
59 elevator or escalator as being fit for operation, it shall issue to the
60 owner a certificate of operation for a capacity and speed specified in
61 the inspector's report. The fee for the certificate first issued shall be one
62 hundred fifty dollars. Such certificate shall be posted conspicuously in
63 the car or cage or on the platform of the elevator or escalator and shall
64 be valid for twelve months. Thereafter, the certificate shall be renewed
65 each year upon receipt of the renewal fee of forty dollars, except that [a
66 certificate for an elevator or escalator subject to a full-maintenance
67 contract shall be renewed every two years on or after October 1, 1986,
68 upon receipt of a renewal fee of one hundred twenty dollars. Until
69 October 1, 1986, a certificate for such elevator or escalator may be
70 renewed for a one-year period in accordance with a staggered system
71 of renewals established by the department] private residence elevators,
72 as defined in the regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-192, as
73 amended by section 1 of this act, shall not be subject to said renewal
74 requirement. No fee shall be required of the state or any agency of the
75 state. No elevator or escalator may be lawfully operated without such

76 certificate.

PS **Committee Vote:** Yea 22 Nay 0 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Minimal Cost and Minimal Revenue Loss

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Safety, Judicial Department

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

The passage of this bill could result in minimal costs and in a minimal annual revenue loss estimated at \$4,600. The bill allows the state building inspector to grant exemptions from the state building code for elevators, and formally establishes an appeals process. Decisions may be appealed to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the commissioner's decision may be appealed to the Superior Court. An estimated three to four state building inspector decisions on elevator variances are appealed per year. This could result in a minimal workload increase and in minimal costs to DPS and to the Judicial Department that can be handled within current budgetary and caseload structures.

The bill also eliminates the permit renewal requirements for elevators in private residences and changes the inspection frequency for other elevators. Eliminating the renewals for elevators in private

residences would result in an annual revenue loss of \$4,600 (115 elevators at \$40 per year). Changing the inspection frequency would result in no fiscal impact. There are about 13,400 elevators in non-residential buildings that require annual inspections and pay annual licensing fees of about \$400,000.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 556

AN ACT CONCERNING ELEVATORS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the inspection and permit renewal requirements for elevators in private residences and changes the inspection frequency for other elevators.

The bill allows the state building inspector to grant variations or exemptions from, or approve equivalent or alternate compliance with, the state building code when compliance entails practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship or is judged unwarranted. It allows people to appeal his decisions to the public safety commission or his designee and the commissioner's decisions to Superior Court.

The bill requires plans and specifications for constructing, relocating, or altering elevators to be submitted in triplicate, instead of duplicate, to the Department of Public Safety for approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS

Under current law, DPS must, at least annually, inspect all elevators, except those subject to full-maintenance contracts, which it must inspect at least every two years. In practice, it inspects all of them at least annually (apparently because the law does not define the term "full maintenance contract.")

The bill eliminates the inspection and permit renewal requirements for private residence elevators, instead allowing inspections at owners' requests. It eliminates the references to full-maintenance contract elevators and escalators and the requirements for inspecting them and renewing required permits every two years for \$120. Instead, the bill

requires all elevators and escalators not in private residences to be inspected at least once every 18 months. Under existing law, which the bill does not change, the certificate of operation for these elevators and escalators must be renewed annually. The renewal fee is \$40.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0